



Washington's Social Life to Be Simplified—Official Women to Lead Nation in Elimination of Extravagance—Smart Hostesses Inaugurate Program of Curtailment Along Various Lines—Dinners to Be Shorter and Simpler. Dress Reform Also on Cards—Official Calling in High Circles Eliminated—D. A. R. Congress This Week. With Candidates for Highest Office Much Feted—Larkin-Irwin Wedding Tomorrow to Be Military Ceremony.

VIRGINIA TATNALL PEACOCK

SOCIETY at Washington is to have a new currency, for the dinner party, in the estimation of the late Gen. William F. Draper, one-time ambassador to Italy, its ne plus ultra medium of exchange, those who gave and those who received and in turn gave dinner parties, constituting the very kernel of society, is, for the moment at least, doomed. Not only have the women in official life taken their stand against every form of extravagance, which includes the formal dinner party, but a valiant little band of hostesses has undertaken to simplify life by materially curtailing this form of hospitality as it is known and practiced at Washington today.

WASHINGTON, grown gradually serious during the progress of the European war, which has touched it so nearly, is now, that war camps on its own doorstep, to grow simple. The first note has been fittingly struck by Mrs. Wilson and the women most closely affiliated with her in official life. Mrs. Marshall and the wives of the cabinet ministers. While the men of the administration have had their heads together over the stupendous problems of the moment there have been sessions among the women to debate the bearing of new issues on their own lives or vice versa. Washington and the country at large have been taken into the confidence of the women, whose high official position makes them the logical leaders of the women of the country in the present crisis, and an outline of the program they propose following has been announced. They have taken time by the forelock and a situation that was forced precipitately upon foreign capitals with an enemy's army practically at their gates. Washington women now prepare methodically to meet. Time is a first requisite, and this they propose procuring by a general curtailment of the formalities of social life. Incidentally this means money in the home exchequer, for which there are new needs arising in many directions every hour of the day. Nearly every woman in official life and many in residential circles are interested in some form of aid to the allies or in preparations to extend such aid as may be called for at home. Some notable Washington residences, including Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth's and Mr. and Mrs. Edson Bradley's, have been offered to the cause, the former being already put to good use. Who knows but the White House, as time goes on, may follow the lead of Buckingham Palace, the Quirinal or other residences of the heads of nations and open its doors to some pressing need of the moment?

CALLING, another of Washington's social industries, running into the thousands for many official hostesses every season, is to be curtailed. A means has been sought to reduce it to a more reasonable basis for many years. Much of it is merely perfunctory, leads nowhere, signifies nothing and as a time consumer is without a rival. The social exchange, which has been a time-consuming industry, sought to change the system into new conditions. Many members, including Mrs. Stephen O. Richey, now president of the club and a representative of the old, conservative element in the social life of the capital, gave up their at home days, receiving instead at the club, in an effort to bring their world together there with equal enjoyment, less effort and less formality. The Congressional Club had among its objects the introduction of a simplified method of social exchange, and the present administration to establish a modus operandi which would simplify a custom that with the growth of the city has become an anachronism, and where it once gave pleasure, is now a heavy burden. Mr. Henry White, former ambassador to France, and with a wide social experience in several European capitals, threw himself gallantly into the breach to help out the women of officialdom, especially of the administration, then learning its steps. He made suggestions, which though rejected in some quarters at the time may in the near future be graciously accepted.

WOMEN of resident society of such standing and influence in the community as to make their example felt far and wide are subscribing to a plan of simplified living which includes not only the cutting down of the dinner, whether of the formal variety or confined to the family circle, to three courses, and one meatless day a week, but lowering the pitch of effort and expenditure along various other lines. The advocates of the innovation have enrolled among their followers such well known hostesses as Mrs. Robert McCormick and Mrs. Edward Beale McLean, who have given some of the most elaborate dinner parties of the season. Mr. Charles S. Hamlin, governor of the federal reserve board, and Mrs. Hamlin were hosts last week at one of the first of the new three-course dinners, with the Secretary of State and Mrs. Lansing as guests of honor. The committee was selected with the usual faultless discretion of these hosts, and the dinner was an unqualified success. The party was over by 10, introducing another economy, that of time, and one not to be lost sight of now when many public men, in addition to their duties of the day in their offices, put in at their homes every night an hour or two of work.

AS a rule, the cabinet ministers and their wives, while keeping all the dinner engagements already made, are neither giving nor accepting invitations after this month, a situation which will tend very much to lessen the brilliancy of the spring season and which foretells a drop in the scale for future seasons so long as the international horizon is overcast. Debutantes may look forward to bowing in muslin, if, indeed, they bow at all, reverting to the simplicity of their great-grandmother's day, a simplicity not without its charm and out of which came many a really great belle. Miss Elizabeth Burnett, who will be coming out in a year or two, was among the most attractive of the jeunes filles at the ball at the marine barracks Monday night, where she appeared under the chaperonage of her mother, Mrs. Sidney Ballou, in a simple frock of pale pink muslin, tucked ruffles and insets of valenciennes lace its only embellishment.

AN interruption to this program of simplicity will come in some quarters now with the arrival at an early date of the distinguished commissioners now preparing to come to this country from the allies' nations for important conferences with officials of this government. These visitors will be entertained, not only at the embassies of their respective countries, but at the homes of Washington officials, especially that of the Secretary of State and Mrs. Lansing.

THE Daughters of the American Revolution have been arriving at Washington for several days for their annual convention. Patriotism will be the keynote of the conference, the principal business of which this year will be the election of their president general. There has been a round of entertaining for the several candidates for this office, which will continue until the engrossing business of the election requires all the attention of the delegates.

THE wedding tomorrow of Miss Mary Regina Irwin and Lieut. Thomas B. Larkin, U. S. A., will be one of the most interesting of the spring season. The ceremony, which will take place at St. Matthew's Church, will be military, all the men in the bridal party, with the exception of Mr. Harrison B. Irwin, the bride's brother, being in uniform. The bride, who is a daughter of Commander and Mrs. William Manning Irwin, is a niece of Mrs. Harold P. Norton, wife of Capt. Norton, U. S. N., and of Mme. Thiebaut, wife of the French minister to Sweden. She comes of old colonial families of Maryland and Virginia, her ancestors having been property owners on the banks of the Potomac before the federal city was laid out incorporating part of their domain.

The President, accompanied by Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, occupied a box at the performance at the Belasco last night.

In addition to the Chilean ambassador and Mme. Baseman, the Mexican ambassador and Mme. Bonillas and the Belgian minister, Baron Emile de Cartier de Marchienne, there have been several other newcomers among the diplomatic circle during the past month, including Mr. Dugue, commercial attaché of the British embassy, who, with Mrs. Dugue, has taken an apartment at the Brighton. Mrs. Eduardo Higginson, commercial attaché to the Peruvian legation, with headquarters at New York, and Mr. Felipe Garcia-Gay, attaché to the Spanish embassy.

The Secretary of Commerce and Mrs. Redfield have as their guest over the week end Mr. Charles H. Fuller of New York, Mrs. Redfield's brother.

The Spanish ambassador and Mme. Riano will have as their guest for a week or ten days Mrs. Riano's sister, Mrs. Chandler Anderson, who will arrive at Washington the early part of next week.

Baron Emile de Cartier de Marchienne, the newly appointed minister of Belgium, called at the State Department yesterday to pay his respects to the Secretary of State.

The minister is staying at the Hotel Lafayette until he selects a permanent Washington residence.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Baker have as their house guests Mrs. New-

MISS RUSSELL CECIL. Daughter of Col. and Mrs. George Russell Cecil, whose marriage to Mr. Alfred E. Bruch of Manassas, Va., will take place shortly.

other guests were Col. and Mrs. E. Evelio Winslow, Col. and Mrs. Charles W. Kutz, Maj. and Mrs. Gustave Lukesh, Capt. and Mrs. James B. E. Lambert and Lieut. and Mrs. William Henry Holcombe. The table decorations were old-fashioned spring flowers, yellow predominating.

Luncheon Hostess Today. Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis, wife of Senator Lewis, will entertain at a luncheon today at the Chevy Chase Club in compliment to her cousin, Mrs. St. J. Allison Lawton of Charleston, S. C., regent of the Rebecca Motte Chapter, D. A. R. Mrs. Lewis will be at home tomorrow afternoon at the Shoreham from 5 to 7 to the members of the D. A. R.

Cowing—Gronna. The marriage of Miss Amy B. Gronna, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Asie J. Gronna of North Dakota, and Mr. Kemper F. Cowing of this city took place yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock in the apartment of the bride's parents at the St. Regis. Only the members of the two families witnessed the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. John E. A. Doernmann in the flower-decked drawing room.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a modish tailored suit of blue tulle with a black lisse straw hat and a corsage bouquet of violets and orchids. Miss Laura A. Volstead, daughter of Representative and Mrs. Volstead, was the bride's only attendant and she wore a white cloth suit with a white hat and a corsage bouquet of pink sweet peas.

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MISS EMMETT ANDERSON. Of Hyde Park, Austin, Tex., a recent visitor at Washington.

room was adorned with baskets of American beauty roses. Mrs. Gronna, mother of the bride, wore a black panne velvet gown, trimmed with jet and silver lace. Mr. and Mrs. Cowing left later for their wedding trip.

Dr. Hugh A. Cowing of Muncie, Ind., father of the bridegroom, was present at the ceremony.

Representative and Mrs. E. S. Chandler of Corinth, Miss., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lucy, and Mr. Charles Roy Wiselogle of Memphis, Tenn., the wedding to take place in the early summer.

The first of a series of spring dances to be given at the Montgomery Country Club was held there last evening by the Dancing Club, which met on Mondays during the past winter at the Playhouse. This will be followed by two other dances this month and two in May.

Gen. and Mrs. William C. Gorgas will have as their guests the latter part of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Wrightson, who have been in South America since the early winter, and are due to arrive at New York about Wednesday.

Miss Helen B. Walcott, who went to France with Mlle. Cecile Denis de Lagarde, expects to return to Washington early in May. Miss Walcott has been an assistant for the past nine months in the military hospitals at Chambery and at Cannes.

Visitors From Durango. Mr. and Mrs. John Lloyd McNeil of Durango, Col., have arrived in Washington and are staying at the New Cochran.

Mrs. McNeil, a former state regent of Colorado, will attend the meetings of the congress of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to open tomorrow.

Mrs. John A. Campbell of Asheville, N. C., is the guest of Judge and Mrs. Edward K. Campbell.

Representative D. A. Hollingsworth of Ohio and Mrs. Hollingsworth have taken an apartment at the Willard for the spring season.

Miss Natalie Magruder has visiting her Mrs. Charles D. Voorhis of Boston, who has come to Washington to attend the wedding of Miss Mary Irwin and Lieut. Larkin, which takes place at St. Matthew's tomorrow.

Mrs. James Hamilton Lewis has accepted the invitation of the senior class of Fairmont Seminary to be its patroness at the graduating exercises in May. On that occasion Dr. Philander P. Claxton will make the address.

Last year Senator James Hamilton Lewis made the address and Mrs. Philander P. Claxton was the patroness.

Engagement Announced. Mrs. Edward P. Turner of The Plains, Va., announces the engagement of her daughter, Frances Palmer Turner, to Mr. Philip M. Knox of Alexandria, Va.

Mrs. Robert Lansing will preside at the meeting of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association on Wednesday afternoon, April 25, and Mrs. Newton D. Baker will preside the following afternoon. The program for both days is an interesting one. Among those taking part will be Mrs. Charles D. Walcott, who will give an illustrated talk on Canadian wild flowers, and Miss

Eliza Sedmore, who will give an illustrated talk on Japanese gardens.

of the meeting, Miss Hageman will give a visit to Mr. David G. Fairchild's cherry trees and a talk by Mr. Fair-

day afternoon, April 26.

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Slip-on, straight-line, belted and fitted models and cape effects, in cloth and silk fabrics in attractive colorings.

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Women's Separate Skirts

An interesting variety of sports and dress models, in stripes, plaids, satins, khaki-kool, serge, gabardine, jersey and tub fabrics.

4.00 to 25.00

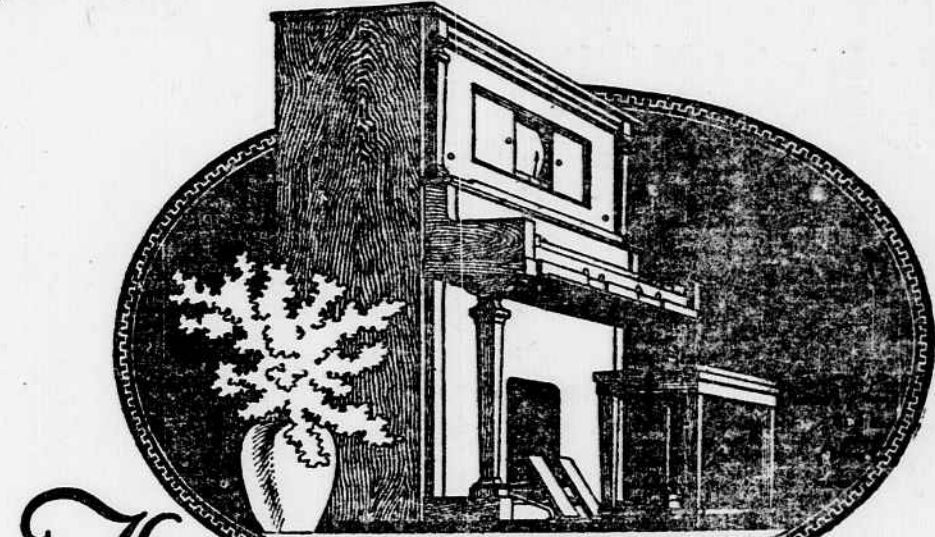
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